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NEWS LEAP programme must have exit plan for beneficiaries – Prez

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The President of the Republic, Nana AddoDankwa Akufo-Addo, has stated that programmes designed to help the poor and vulnerable must have clear-cut exit

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According to the President, such aid programmes and initiatives must be structured to enable beneficiaries strike out and be able to lead an independent life.

“I remember when the LEAP programme was envisaged and introduced under President Kufuor, we were clear in our minds that, whereas we wanted it to cover all those who would qualify under the definition of the programme, it was meant to be a hand-up, not a hand-out,” he said.

The President continued, “If someone has to go on the LEAP programme, it should not be for the rest of that person’s life. There should be a definite time limit to being a LEAP beneficiary, and the beneficiary should be able to stand on his or her own after the stated period.”

President Akufo-Addo made this known on Friday, 21 April 2017, when he delivered the keynote address at the 4th Rotary International District 9102 Conference, held at the Accra International Conference Centre.

The President, himself a Paul Harris Fellow of The Rotary Club, Accra South, explained that after 60 years of independence, “I want us, in Ghana, to break out



Politics

content and help us to think big and be dissatisfied with remaining poor.”

Touching in the “Six Areas of Focus of Rotary”, President Akufo-Addo noted that members of the Rotary Club have always been well placed to influence events and policies in Ghana.

In the area of health, he stated the infection rates of poliomyelitis, one of the six childhood killer diseases, had been reduced from an annual worldwide infection rate of 350,000 cases in over 125 countries, to a mere 75 cases in only 3 countries. This feat, he noted, has been achieved thanks to the efforts of Rotary.

“You have taken on the other great killer of our part of the world, malaria, and I wish to congratulate Rotary on your Roll Back Malaria project. It does look as though we are finally making headway in the fight against malaria. This is also the result of collaboration between government and non-governmental organizations.

Touching on the Water and Sanitation area of focus, President Akufo-Addo stated that “I am pleased to learn that you have started the second phase of a US\$6 million Rotary International/USAID Water

government's programme to provide potable water and good sanitation to all our people".



On Basic Education and Literacy, another area of focus of Rotary, the President stressed that "education is the only way to give a good head start and provide equal opportunities for all our children. This government believes that a lot hangs on the success of our education programmes, and we welcome enthusiastically all the help that we can get from organizations such as Rotary in delivering quality education to our people."

President Akufo-Addo also charged Rotary to partner with the Minister for Inner City and Zongo

initiatives and projects which would help people in the rural areas, in particular those who are dependent on such initiatives.

He also urged Rotary to partner government in the Planting for Food and Jobs programme, which was launched in Goaso, in the BrongAhafo Region, on Wednesday, April 19, and also in the implementation of the 1-District-1-Factory programme.

“It is a programme in which private sector participation is essential. Come and join us make a success of it. You have a lot of people with good business acumen and experience amongst your ranks. There are a lot of opportunities and I invite you to join us bring prosperity to our people,” he added.

In concluding, President Akufo-Addo told the gathering that “we are determined to build a new Ghanaian and African civilisation, where the rule of law works, where individual liberties and human rights are respected, and where the principles of democratic accountability are the foundation of public policy. We are determined to forge a new Ghanaian and African, who is neither a victim nor a pawn of the world economic order, but who will be a dignified member of a successful, thriving, prosperous society.”



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